

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An isolated DNA comprising an open reading frame encoding a protein characterized by ~~[[an]]~~ the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, an allelic amino acid sequence having amino acid residue K instead of M at position 705 of SEQ ID NO: 3, or an amino acid residue D instead of E at position 1219 of SEQ ID NO. 3 ~~comprising a component sequence of at least 150 amino acid residues having more than 55% identity with an aligned component sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein said protein is a component of transcriptional gene silencing system.~~

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The DNA according to claim1 characterized by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2.

7. (Previously presented) The DNA according to claim 1, characterized in that expression of corresponding anti-sense RNA in a cell releases silencing of a transgenic marker gene.

8. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ An isolated protein characterized by the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 3, an allelic amino acid sequence having amino acid residue K instead of M at position 705 of SEQ ID NO: 3, or an amino acid residue D instead of E at position 1219 of SEQ ID NO: 3 encoded by the open reading frame of claim 1.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Withdrawn) A polymerase chain reaction wherein at least one oligonucleotide used comprises a sequence of nucleotides which represents 15 or more basepairs of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2.

11-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Withdrawn) An RNA complementary to an mRNA transcribed from the DNA of claim 7.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of releasing silencing in a plant comprising the step of expressing in the plant the RNA according to claim 17.